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- **Wages, salaries and benefits increase 1.3% in first quarter**
- **Investment in new residential and non-residential buildings stall in first quarter**
- **Food service receipts slip 0.6% in March**

The Economy

- **Wages, salaries and benefits earned by BC workers grew 1.3% (*seasonally adjusted*) during the first quarter.** The increase in labour income was slightly lower than the national average (+1.6%). Newfoundland & Labrador (+2.9%) and Alberta (+2.6%) posted the strongest growth rates. In the rest of the country, labour income rose at rates ranging from +0.7% in Nova Scotia to +1.7% in Manitoba.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Investment in residential structures in the province were unchanged overall in the first quarter.** Spending on new construction increased 1.2% (*seasonally adjusted*), as investment in row and apartment buildings continued to climb. However, acquisition costs, which are also included in the value of residential investment, were down 2.7%.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **Non-residential building construction in BC stalled in the first quarter, with total spending unchanged from the level at the end of 2010.** Although investment in new institutional and government buildings increased 5.4%, spending on industrial (-1.9%) and commercial (-2.6%) buildings shrank in the first quarter. Nationally, investment rose 1.1%. In contrast to the situation in this province, Canadian builders invested more in new industrial (+5.2%) and commercial (+2.1%) buildings, and spent less (-2.0%) on new institutional and government buildings.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Receipts at food services & drinking places in the province fell (-0.6% *seasonally adjusted*) in March, marking the third consecutive month of declines.** Drinking places were hardest-hit, but food service establishments also saw revenues drop in March. Across Canada, receipts climbed 0.9% as both full-service (+1.9%) and limited-service (+0.2%) restaurants recorded increases, offsetting reductions at drinking places (-0.2%) and special food service establishments. BC was the only province to record lower sales in April.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **BC's sawmills registered yet another year-over-year boost in March as output of lumber jumped 6.6%.** Both Coastal (+7.5%) and Interior (+6.5%) mills ramped up lumber production significantly. Nationally, production was also higher (+0.7%) than in the same month last year, with strength in BC offsetting slowdowns in most of the other lumber-producing provinces. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Agriculture

- **BC farm cash receipts were 2.2% lower in the first quarter than in the same period of 2010.** Crop receipts were down 4.4%, but livestock producers saw receipts rise 1.5%, largely because of higher revenues from sales of hens & chickens (+8.5%) and eggs (+6.0%).

  Canadian receipts rose 8.8% in the first quarter, boosted by strong growth in most parts of the country. Quebec (+20.3%) and PEI (+19.1%) both saw increases of close to twenty percent. BC and Manitoba (-4.0%) were the

Report Socio-Economic Profiles and Indicators- An Overview

Did you know...

Airline tickets are the most popular reward for Canadians who hold a travel reward credit card. Six out of ten cardholders redeem points for flights, nearly double the number who use points to get other types of rewards such as merchandise or gift cards *Data Source: Ipsos Reid*

only provinces where farm cash receipts were lower than in the first quarter of 2010.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Nation

- **The Canadian economy expanded 1.0% (*seasonally adjusted*) in the first quarter, building on an increase of 0.8% in late 2010.** Despite the relatively strong economic growth, some indicators softened in the first quarter. Final domestic demand for goods and services increased just 0.6% (the lowest rate recorded since mid-2009), as consumer demand (+0.0%) and government spending on goods and services (+0.0%) stalled. In fact, business investment in fixed capital provided much of the stimulus for economic growth. Total spending was up 2.9%, with investment in residential (+2.3%) and non-residential (+2.8%) structures, and new machinery & equipment (+3.7%) posting healthy gains. Investment in new residential structures advanced for the first time since early 2010.

  The value of goods and services imported into Canada jumped 2.2%. At the same time, export growth (+1.6%) moderated in the first quarter.

  With domestic and foreign demand softening in the first quarter, Canadian producers saw the value of inventories climb quite significantly. Business inventories rose to $10.7 billion ($2002, chained) in the first quarter. Durable goods held by wholesalers and retailers accounted for most of the inventory accumulation. Although inventory swings are common, a build-up of inventories indicates that the stock of unsold product is rising. While this could simply reflect the need to maintain higher inventory levels in order to meet anticipated future demand, it may also be an indication that the economy is losing some of its momentum. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canada's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 0.3% (*seasonally adjusted*) in March.** The increase was largely driven by a recovery in the goods industries (+0.9%), especially manufacturing (+1.8%). Producers of durable goods (+2.8%) made big gains, while GDP in non-durable manufacturing rose more modestly (+0.5%). However, both wood (-2.3%) and paper (-1.2%) manufacturers posted declines in March. Among other goods-producing industries, construction (+0.7%) and utilities (+0.8%) posted solid growth.

  The service sector stalled for a second straight month as retail trade shrank (-1.0%) for the third time in four months. Finance, insurance & real estate (-0.1%), education (-0.1%), arts, entertainment & recreation (-0.1%) and accommodation & foods services (-0.1%) posted marginal declines. On the other hand, transportation & warehousing (+0.7%), wholesale trade (+0.4%), and other services (+0.3%) picked up speed in March.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Investment by non-residents in Canadian bonds, stocks and the money market increased $21.8 billion in the first quarter.** Foreign investment in Canadian bonds slowed to the lowest level since late 2008, but investment in stocks continued to strengthen.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Canadian manufacturers' prices continued to climb in April, increasing 5.0% relative to the same month of 2010.** Higher prices for petroleum and coal (+28.7%) and primary metal (+12.3%) products contributed to the upward movement. The price of fruits, vegetables, feeds and other food products rose 6.2%. A strong Canadian dollar mitigated the overall effect. Excluding the exchange rate, the overall IPPI would have been up 6.1%.

  BC softwood lumber prices were 6.8% lower than in April 2010, with both Coastal (-6.4%) and Interior (-6.9%) producers receiving less for their product. However, pulpwood chip prices were up 2.2%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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Socio-Economic Profiles and Indicators - An Overview

The socio-economic profile and indicator program was developed by BC Stats in summer of 1998. The program was initiated by the Deputy Ministers Committee for Social Policy with input from cross-ministry steering committee and external advisors. The purpose of the program was to provide policy makers with accurate information when making decisions or allocating funding and resources. Another purpose of the program was to help monitor the progress of initiatives intended to close the disparity gap between communities and promote research and discussion into possible causes for such disparities.

Socio-economic Profiles

The Socio-economic profiles provide a comprehensive view of each region with charts and tables for the 26 Regional Districts, 86 Local Health Areas, 16 Health Service Delivery Areas, 5 Health Authorities, 8 Development Regions, and 15 College Regions in British Columbia. Also included are the special geographies of the Columbian Basin Trust, Georgia and Fraser Basins. Each profile is introduced with a map of the region and its communities and the particular demographic information, based on the 2006 Census. The data is presented in a format that allows comparison with other regions in the province and the BC overall. Each region contains the data and information based on the following themes:

- Economic hardship
- Labour market structure
- Education concerns
- Crime
- Health problems
- Children at risk
- Youth at risk

Methodology and Background Information

Over 100 indicators and variables describing social, economic and demographic conditions are available by many different geographical levels across the province. A few variables within each indicator were used to develop the socio-economic indices; however, a complete list of all Indicators and variables is compiled for further research and analysis. For a complete list of the variable within each index, Please see http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/listvars.pdf

A complete report describing the methodology and data sources used in the calculation of the various indices can be found in http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/method.pdf

For research papers, backgrounds, and external reviews, please refer to:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/papers.asp

A complete glossary of terms with all the definitions and sources of data is also provided at:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/glossary.pdf

Socio-economic Indices

The socio-economic indices summarize the social and economic conditions of a wide variety of indicators into a single composite index for 26 Regional Districts and 86 Local Health Areas. When viewed together, these indices provide a summary measure of the relative successes and challenges across all regions of the province. The indices are intended only to show regions that may be experiencing higher levels of socio-economic stress relative to neighbouring areas. By themselves, they don't provide answers as to why a community or region is doing poorly or well, but rather form a necessary first step in determining the factors underlying the conditions. The indices used variables in the following indicators to provide a composite weighted index.

- Index of Human Economic Hardship
- Index of Crime
- Index of Health Problems
- Index of Education Concerns
- Children at Risk
- Youth at Risk

A final summary of the six indicators is presented as the overall Regional Socio-Economic Index.

Navigating through Geographical Areas

Both the socio-economic profiles and indices are available by many different geographical regions and areas. The mapping and geography section of the BC Stats website provides maps and tables to identify the location of all the communities within their larger geographical areas. In addition to reference, thematic, and interactive maps, a comprehensive table in an Excel format is provided to help identify the smaller communities within their larger identified areas and regions. This table is located under **Translations and data Sets** with the title of *Translation of Place Names to BC Administrative Regions*. For example, the community of Ainsworth is located in the Kootenay Development Region, Central Kootenay Regional District, Interior Health Authority, Kootenay Boundary Health Service Delivery Areas, Kootenay Lake LHA, and Selkirk College Region.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/georef/geopage.asp

Indicator Analysis: Life Expectancy and Teenage pregnancies

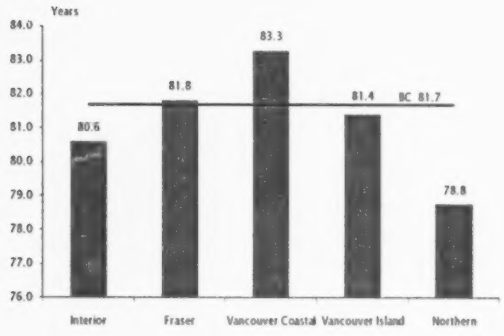
As mentioned before, the socio-economic profiles and indices provide a variety of indicators and variables based on different geographical areas in the province. In this section, two variables associated with Health (Life expectancy and Teen pregnancies) will be analyzed. Data and information on these variables are available by many different geographical areas; however, this analysis will be based solely on Health Authorities (HA) and Health Service Delivery Areas (HSDA).

Life Expectancy at Birth

Life Expectancy at Birth represents the average number of years of life remaining to an individual at birth. The calculation is based on the present mortality structure across all ages for the present population calculated by 5-year averages. Life expectancy is a reliable

and frequently used indicator for determining the health status of a population. The latest available life expectancy data (based on average 2006-2010) show the average life expectancy for the province at 81.7 years. During the same time period, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority had the highest life expectancy at 83.3 years while Northern had the lowest life expectancy at 78.8 years. Interior, Fraser, and Vancouver Island had rates that were close to the BC average.

Life Expectancy at Birth, Health Authorities and BC, Average 2006-2010



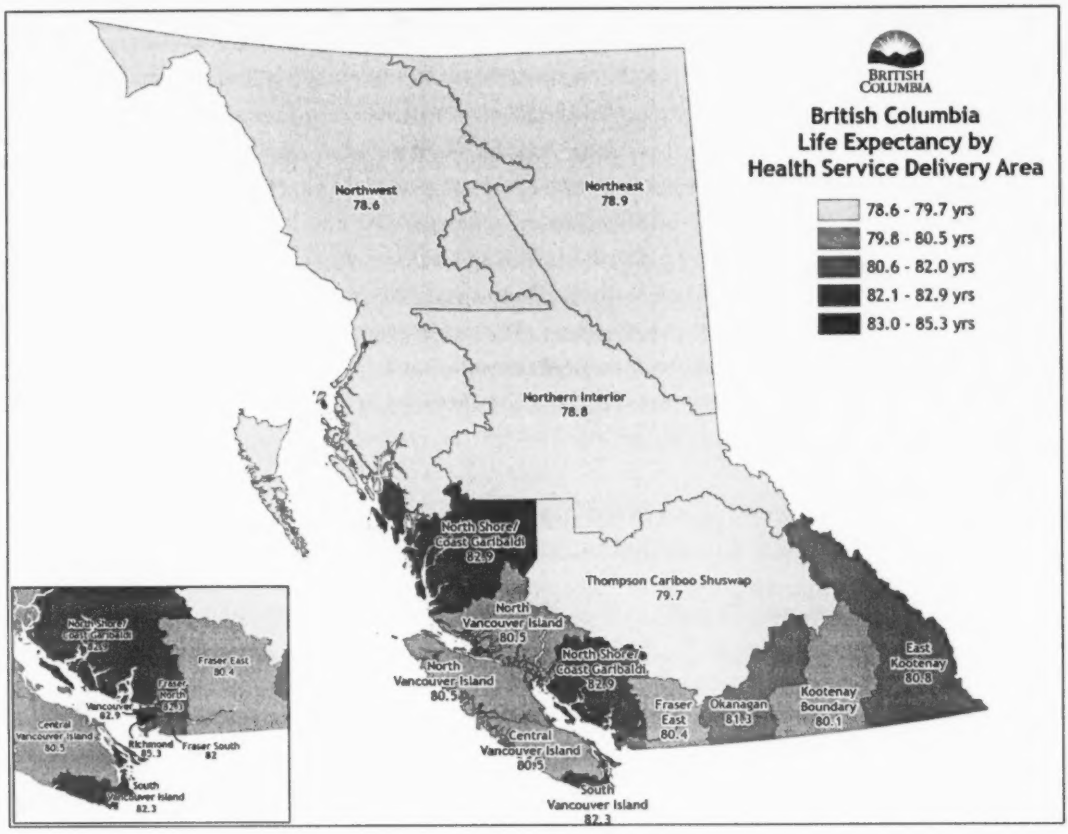
Source: BC Stats

The life expectancy data can also be analyzed based on Health Service Delivery Areas (HSDAs). The *Life Expectancy and Birth, Health Service Delivery Areas 2006-2010* Table shows all HSDAs within each health authority. Of all HSDAs, Richmond had the highest life expectancy (85.3) while Northwest had the lowest (78.6). The map of the HSDAs shows the differences in life expectancy among the areas. All HSDAs within the Northern region had the lowest rates of life expectancy while those within Vancouver Coastal had the highest. The rates of all HSDAs in the Interior Health Authority are close to BC average except the HSDA of Thompson Cariboo Shuswap which is in the lower range. The HSDAs in Fraser and Vancouver Island had rates that were relatively close to the BC average.

Life Expectancy at Birth, Health Service Delivery Areas, 2006-2010

Interior	East Kootenay	80.8
	Kootenay Boundary	80.1
	Okanagan	81.3
	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	79.7
Fraser	Fraser East	80.4
	Fraser North	82.3
	Fraser South	82.0
Vancouver Coastal	Richmond	85.3
	Vancouver	82.9
	North Shore/ Coast Garibaldi	82.9
Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island	82.3
	Central Vancouver Island	80.5
	North Vancouver Island	80.5
Northern	Northwest	78.6
	Northern Interior	78.8
	Northeast	78.9

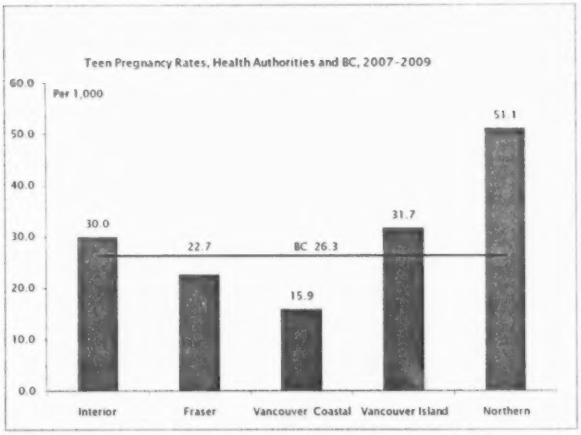
Source: BC Stats



Source: BC Stats

Teen Pregnancy

Teen pregnancy is the sum of live births, still-births, and hospital or clinic abortive outcomes per 1,000 women, 15-19 years of age. Teen pregnancies are usually unplanned and can negatively impact the health and well-being of the mother and child during pregnancy, at birth, and later on in life. Based on 2007-2009 data, the rate of teen pregnancies in BC was 26.3 per 1,000. Northern had the highest rate of teen pregnancy rate at 51.1 per 1,000 while Vancouver Coastal had the lowest rate at 15.9 per 1,000. Vancouver Island and Interior had rates above the BC average at 31.7 and 30.0 per 1,000 respectively.



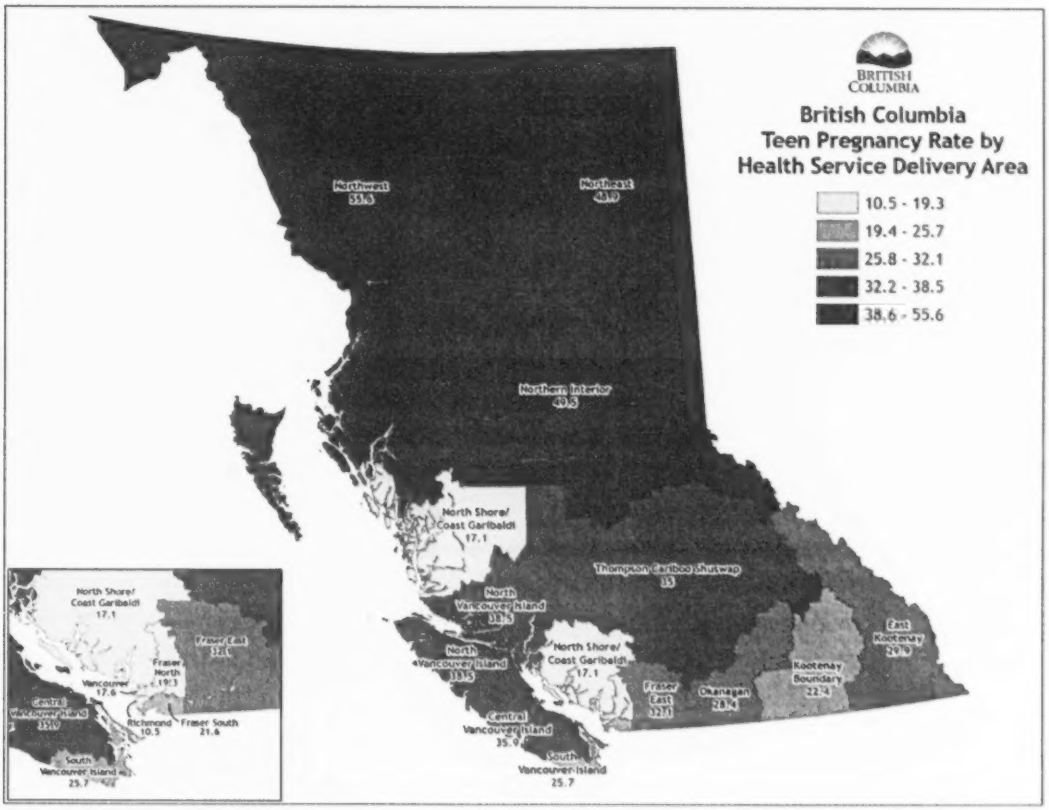
Source: Vital Statistics Agency, Ministry of Health and BC Stats

The *Teen Pregnancy, Health Service Delivery Areas, 2007-2009* table and map illustrate teen pregnancy rates based on the HSDAs within each health authority. During 2007-2009, all HSDAs within Vancouver Coastal had much lower teen pregnancy rates with Richmond having the lowest rate in the province at 10.5 per 1,000. In contrast, all HSDAs within Northern Health Authority had the highest teen pregnancy rates with Northwest having the highest rate at 55.6 per 1,000. Other areas with significantly higher rates than the provincial average were North Vancouver Island (38.5), Central Vancouver Island (35.9), Thompson Cariboo Shuswap (35.0), and Fraser East (32.1)

Teen Pregnancy, Health Service Delivery Areas, 2007-2009

Interior	East Kootenay	29.9
	Kootenay Boundary	22.4
	Okanagan	28.4
	Thompson Cariboo Shuswap	35.0
Fraser	Fraser East	32.1
	Fraser North	19.3
	Fraser South	21.6
Vancouver Coastal	Richmond	10.5
	Vancouver	17.6
	North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	17.1
Vancouver Island	South Vancouver Island	25.7
	Central Vancouver Island	35.9
	North Vancouver Island	38.5
Northern	Northwest	55.6
	Northern Interior	49.5
	Northeast	48.9

Source: BC Stats



Source: BC Stats

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Conclusion

The socio-economic profiles and indices provide useful social, economic and demographic data and information on all communities based on different geographical areas in BC. This information provides policy makers with accurate data to make sound decisions for allocation of the limited resources and also aid in monitoring the progress of initiatives intended to close the disparity gap between communities. The profiles and indices also promote research, discussion, and a better understanding of possible causes of disparities among communities resulting in possible programs and policies that will improve the lives of those living in such communities. For more information, please visit

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/index.asp

Sponsors for 2010 Socio-economic Program:
The profiles and indices were produced by BC Stats with funding support from the following:

- Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
- Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
- Ministry of Regional Economic and Skills Development (now called Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation)
- Ministry of Social Development, and
- the Office of the Provincial Health Officer

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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/2011	% change on one year ago
BC	4,554.1	1.2
Canada	34,278.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 4)		
(BC - at market prices)	2009	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	191,006	-3.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	161,851	-1.8
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,287	-3.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,374	-1.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Mar 2011	3,215	2.2
Merchandise Exports - Mar 2011	2,678	3.7
Retail Sales - Mar 2011	4,851	0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Apr 2011)	one year ago	% change
BC	2.7	1.9
Vancouver	2.6	2.2
Victoria	2.7	1.6
Canada	3.3	2.1
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Apr 2011	% change on prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	8.9	
Labour Force - BC	2,467.6	0.1
Employed - BC	2,272.9	0.4
Unemployed - BC	194.7	-2.6
		Mar 2011
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.9	8.1
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.6	7.7
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jun 1/2011	Jun 2/2010
Prime Business Rate	3.00	2.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.60	3.70
- 5 year	5.49	5.99
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jun 1/2011	Jun 2/2010
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9765	1.0651
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0226	0.9358
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Apr 2011	% change on one year ago
BC	828.11	1.1
Canada	837.75	2.9

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Socio-Economic Profiles 2010

The 2010 Socio-Economic Profiles are now available. These profiles present data in tables and charts on population, economic hardship, labour market, education, crime, health and risk factors for children and youth. Some special regions and the Indices should be available by the end of June.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/choose.asp

2010 BC Apprenticeship Student Outcomes Survey Summary Report

The 2010 Apprenticeship Student Outcomes (APPSO) Survey was conducted with former students who completed the final year of their apprenticeship training in a B.C. post-secondary institution between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. Approximately six months later, from January to April of 2010, 2,750 former students from 29 institutions (14 public and 15 private) participated in survey telephone interviews - the gross response rate was 56 percent. For more information on BC Student Outcomes, visit BC Student Outcomes

http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Libraries/APPSO_Reports/2010_Apprenticeship_Report_pdf.pdf

File Finder

BC Stats powerful new tool to find small area data on the web site. Users can filter on an area type or a specific location, time period, product, and subject. The File Finder app is still very much under development and only a few products have been linked into it as yet, but it is already quite useful so we decided to share it with you.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/filefinder.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Business Indicators, May 2011

Next week

- Quarterly Regional Statistics, First Quarter 2011
- Exports, April 2011
- Labour Force Statistics, May 2011
- Earnings & Employment Trends, May 2011

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